

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Richard Treanor on 6/12/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1: line 2, after "comprises", insert --:--

Cancel claims 13-14

Replace all previous versions of claims 2 and 11:

--Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid component of the sticky substance or the waste liquid containing the sticky substance to be absorbed into the solid substance are mixed with the solid substance to allow the sticky substance to be entangled with the solid substance, and as a result, stickiness of the mixture is lowered so that the mixture can be handled like a solid.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises discharging the waste liquid containing the sticky substance from a first vessel to a second vessel, wherein after discharging said waste liquid, residue is present in said first vessel, and

mixing the solid substance having inflammability and liquid-absorptivity with the waste liquid in said second vessel.--

Claim 7:

Line 2, before "waste" insert --the--

Line 3, before "petrochemical" insert --a--

Claim 8: line 2, before "particle" insert --a—

Claim 12: line 3, after "residue" insert --in said first vessel—

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art fails to teach or suggest removing a sticky substance or a waste liquid containing a sticky substance by mixing a solid substance having inflammability and liquid-absorptivity into a sticky substance or a waste liquid containing a sticky substance, wherein the sticky substance is absorbed into and entangled with the solid substance and wherein the sticky substance or waste liquid containing the sticky substance is a partially polymerized substance or waste liquid containing a partially polymerized substance generated in a process of production, distillation, purification or storage of an easily-polymerizable substance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sharidan Carrillo whose telephone number is 571-272-1297. The examiner can normally be reached on M-W 6:30-4:00pm, alternating Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on 571-272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sharidan Carrillo/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1792

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